



Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that AGUSTIN TIGELINO MARTINEZ was found guilty Friday morning following a two-day jury trial before United States District Judge Thomas J. McAvoy in Albany of conspiracy to commit alien smuggling.

MARTINEZ, age 47, of Bronx, New York, was found guilty on both charges: one count of conspiracy to bring aliens to the United States for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain; and one count of conspiracy to transport or attempt to transport an illegal alien within the United States. Sentencing was set for April 13, 2011, before Judge McAvoy in Albany, at which time the defendant will face a total sentence of up to 10 years imprisonment, fines up to \$500,000, or both. MARTINEZ remains in the custody of the United States Marshal pending sentencing.

MARTINEZ conspired with others in a commercial smuggling attempt to bring a citizen of India, with no permission to be in the United States, from Canada to the Champlain, New York area, and then to transport that illegal alien from the Champlain and Plattsburgh areas to the New York City area. The smugglers utilized a remote area to cross the international boundary between Quebec and New York, in the State and Northern District of New York. MARTINEZ and others were arrested on November 4, 2009, as the result of joint operations between United States and Canadian members of the Integrated Border Enforcement Team after Swanton Sector United States Border Patrol (USBP) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents in Rouses Point received information about impending smuggling activity. The Integrated Border Enforcement Team

members involved in the operations included the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Surete de Quebec (Quebec Provincial Police) based in Lacolle, Quebec, Customs and Border Protection Office of Air and Marine in Plattsburgh, New York, in addition to the USBP and HSI, assisted by the Clinton County Sheriff's Office and Plattsburgh Police Department.

The indictment and prosecution of MARTINEZ and others are an example of the importance of international cooperation between United States and Canadian officials to protect the border and exploit information about impending criminal activity impacting both countries.

The case was prosecuted by the new Plattsburgh Office of the United States Attorney's Office. Any questions may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Horsman, Plattsburgh, 518-314-7800.